

L.N. 19 of 2024

**Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Air Pollution)
(Amendment) Regulation 2024**

(Made by the Secretary for Transport and Logistics under sections 3 and 3A of the Merchant Shipping (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Ordinance (Cap. 413))

1. Commencement

This Regulation comes into operation on 1 May 2024.

2. Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Air Pollution) Regulation amended

The Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Air Pollution) Regulation (Cap. 413 sub. leg. P) is amended as set out in section 3.

3. Section 18A added

Part 2, Division 4, after section 18—

Add

“18A. Exemptions from sections 17(2) and 18

- (1) This section applies if an area is designated as an SO_x Emission Control Area by an amendment to Regulation 14.3 of Annex VI.
- (2) If a ship is within the area during the period of 12 months beginning on the date on which the amendment comes into force (*exemption period*), the ship is exempted from section 17(2).

- (3) If a ship enters or leaves the area during the exemption period, the ship is exempted from section 18.”.

LAM Sai-hung
Secretary for Transport and
Logistics

21 February 2024

Explanatory Note

This Regulation amends the Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Air Pollution) Regulation (Cap. 413 sub. leg. P) (*principal Regulation*) as a result of the amendments to Annex VI to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973 (*Annex VI amendments*) adopted by the International Maritime Organization (*IMO*) by Resolution MEPC.361(79) on 16 December 2022.

2. The Annex VI amendments relate to the designation by the IMO of the Mediterranean Sea Emission Control Area as an SO_x Emission Control Area.
3. This Regulation amends the principal Regulation to provide that if an area is designated by the IMO as an SO_x Emission Control Area, during the period of 12 months immediately following the designation—
 - (a) a ship within the area is exempted from complying with section 17(2) of the principal Regulation; and
 - (b) a ship entering or leaving the area is exempted from complying with section 18 of the principal Regulation.